

# **Main Street Reisterstown Program**

## **Minutes**

**Location/Date:** Reter's Crabhouse, Reisterstown - March 18, 2013

**Attendees:** Amy Mantay, Glenn Barnes, Mary Molinaro, Calvin Reter, Kevin Kowitz, Jimmy Roberts, Pat Brooks, Kinsey Gill, Dave Powers, Ernie Schmidhauser, Paul Davolos, Irwin Kramer, Michelle Sholund, Jonathan Schwartz, Dan Carey, Colleen Brady, Kathy Gambrell, Kathy Bell, Lisa Doyle, Shirley Smith, J T Doer, Jeff Eline, Brad Reter

Amy started the meeting having everyone introduce themselves and then asked for reports from the committees.

Mary said that the organization committee will be meeting Thursday evening and she will report next week.

Paul said the economic restructuring committee met this morning. They reviewed the suggestions from the Kick Off Meeting and decided to begin with three specific topics. 1) Continue doing a market analysis of Main Street, 2) Continue working on a brochure for the merchants to give them information on county plans as well as local lenders, and 3) holding another merchants meeting for continued discussion about ideas like extended hours and intern possibilities. Paul said they will be looking to local community colleges for expertise, the business development department at Stevenson and Amy reminded them the economic department for Baltimore County would be happy to work with them.

Calvin said the promotion committee will be meeting next week and identifying ways they can help other committees meet their goals.

Irwin said that the design committee will hold its first meeting next week. They have been circulating a draft agenda among themselves through emails. Irwin plans to participate with Amy at the SHA meeting and discuss "brick and mortar improvements" as well as meet with Karin Brown to get a further education on the importance of the historic classification in town.

Dan said they held a meeting this morning and that Captain McElwee advised them he couldn't attend. He also said that Officer Willis won't be able to attend until the first of April and then will be at every meeting. Kinsey gave a report of what was discussed. She said they have been working with the Boys Scouts to increase the number of times they do street cleaning to earn badges. They are currently doing this once a year. They discussed the areas of town which need the most focus. They have arranged for an extra dumpster at the Bloomin' ArtFest. They have opened the lines of communication with merchants and so far have discussed the Merchants on Patrol (MOP) program with businesses between Cockeysmill Road and Harryman House. So far, 15 merchants have signed on to participate and they will continue the outreach. Dave designed a sign for the merchants to display and Kinsey as a donation had some signs printed to distribute to the merchants. Amy thanked her for the donation but said she still needs to keep a copy of the receipt which totaled \$13.31. Colleen said she will be happy to advertise the Main Street efforts and outreach for volunteers at the May 4<sup>th</sup> clean up event from 10am – 12pm at the Chamber networking after hours event "Biz after Biz" this Thursday (21<sup>st</sup>) from 5:30pm-7:30pm at Reters Crabhouse.

Amy reminded everyone to please sign up for the two day training event downtown on the Main Street Maryland program March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

Amy said she will work this week on the calendar of events to share it and add more information or make corrections where appropriate. Colleen said she also shares a Community calendar on the Chamber website. Glenn talked about the Reisterstown magazine which will start publication in May. He discussed the cost of a page and Amy said the county will be putting in an ad and share the calendar each month. She also mentioned the Tourism website, Patch, our Facebook page and group page as places to be sure all events are listed.

Amy handed out the Master Contact List showing information on all the people who have attended at least one of our meetings and shown an interest in participating. She also handed out an updated list of the Businesses on Main Street and mentioned it is the one Jen has used to create the interactive map on the website. Jen has also used some articles Mary sent from the years of Chartley Chatters that tell the history of specific homes linking them to the appropriate addresses. They are identified with an "H". Jimmy talked about the historical pictures hanging in the Wells Fargo bank. Shirley also brought history information from her family's papers to share that Amy may use in publications, brochures, website, etc. Jeff said that his family business (Eline Funeral Home) is celebrating their 150th anniversary with a celebration 4/27/13 and will have a room specifically devoted to Reisterstown history.

Amy handed out her Master Main Street Committees Member list to assist members on the committees staying in touch with each other. At the end of the meeting Lisa Doyle advised me that her email address is not correct, it should be [doylelis58@gmail.com](mailto:doylelis58@gmail.com). Please correct your page.

Amy discussed the plans for her meeting with SHA. She showed a map of the historic area of Main Street she plans to take to the meeting showing the various parts of Main Street that we have discussed and shared concerns since the 2010 2 day Visionary Workshops. She will be talking about projects that can be handled quickly as well as long term. Among the topics will be various intersection markings, striping parking spaces, reviewing signals, and signage. Glenn talked about the difference between the white line crosswalks versus brick stamped ones and feels that drivers are more likely to stop with the brick stamped ones. Comments were made that a few more lights are being replaced to improve lighting and crosswalks were recently restriped.

Amy said that the Design committee is going to take the lead on the SHA meeting. Irwin stressed that our first impression is most important. He wants to go the meeting prepared to discuss action items to achieve our biggest projects. Irwin mentioned a federal TAP program and that we should try to get grant money. He talked about the history of Reisterstown starting as an Indian Trail that became a highway and feels that our best advantage is the transportation history of the town. John Reister found that being 15 miles from downtown Baltimore (a day's ride) made this the perfect place for travelers to stop and rest. So, an inn and tavern were built and the town started. With the stress on the history and highway, he hopes to be able to obtain some of those federal funds for our town. He said they have the potential of larger projects such as helping create a visitor center. He'll be working on that angle to talk about roundabouts or other restructuring on intersections that simply don't work. Calvin said we should approach the politicians for assistance. Irwin said he doesn't want to delay the meeting as the politicians are currently busy in Annapolis. However, agrees that we will outreach to them to help us be successful.

Pat suggested more signage at crosswalks, JT spoke about lowering the speed limit from 30 to 25 and lining the parking places. Amy talked about other towns that actually have extended the sidewalk out with flowers at crosswalks to assist people crossing. It is not only attractive but also effective. Calvin

pointed out problems with lining the street because drivers can get a ticket if they cross those lines going around left turning cars. Jimmy talked about all the parking behind the churches and wondered about them being used by others. Irwin said that his research indicates there isn't really an umbrella policy for the town. However, individual property owners are covered by their insurance. The positives may in fact outweigh the problems. The more traffic increases the more chances for a suit. However, the more traffic also increases the chance for successful businesses. Amy told everyone that the booklet created at the end of the 2010 Visionary Workshop is now on the website.

Amy talked about summer events/volunteer opportunities

Clean-ups will happen May 4<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm and we should have an aggressive outreach for help  
Bloomin' ArtFest May 11<sup>th</sup> 10am-5pm still looking for volunteers

The Gathering (handout) – Amy, Glenn, and Kathy met with Damien. Amy passed out a handout explaining the program. June 8<sup>th</sup> is the date being considered but details aren't finalized yet to announce it. Damien's group will provide security, spot-a-pot, licensing and organizing. Due to the beer and wine sales, we will most likely get a donation around \$1,000 if we can be as successful as other neighborhoods. Glenn talked about making sure we hold this event without hurting other businesses. An event like this will normally bring a lot of people to Main Street and so the stores and restaurants need to be aware and prepared for the increased business. One suggestion was made that businesses could offer coupons that can be handed out at the event. The time will be from 3pm -8pm. Amy explained that these trucks are associated with restaurants and have a following of 1.5 million on their website so they have a lot of followers from outside the area that will come just for the event. The plans can be finalized once Damien sends a copy of their liability insurance certificate.

Amy discussed holding another morning or possibly evening merchant get together like the last morning meeting in April. She said that the Facebook/website are up and running. The Kick Off meeting was added to the website.

The next meeting will be held at Reter's Crabhouse, Monday, March 25 , 2013 at 10am.